

CONTACTS

Phone	859-431-1818	
Email	stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org	
Website	www.stjohnsuccnewport.org	
Facebook	St. John's United Church of Christ–Newport, KY	
PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME
Coffee Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall (L.L.)	9:00 a.m.
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.

CHURCH STAFF

POSITION	PERSON	CONTACT
Designated Pastor	J. Martin Westermeyer	Shaman4@zoomtown.com
Pastor of Visitation	John Robson	Jmarrobson@gmail.com
Director Of Music/Organist	Michael Sullivan	Michael.Sullivan@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Chancel Choir Director	Tony Burdette	Tony.Burdette@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Office Administrator	Kelli Taylor	Kelli.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Director of Communication & Outreach	Kyle Taylor	Kyle.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Financial Administrator	Chris Baker	Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org

CHURCH LEADERS

PERSON	POSITION	CONTACT
Kyle Taylor	Church President	859-394-5256
David Stamm	Church Vice President	859-322-2426
Pat Goins	Church Secretary	859-250-2830
Vickie Kennedy	Church Treasurer	859-653-2630 text or call

Church Office Hours

Monday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Calls will be answered off-site on days when the office is closed.	



August 31, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Thought for the Day before Worship
Love is a choice you make from moment to moment.
– Barbara DeAngelis

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Morning Hymn”

(Gordon Young)

Tower Bell

*Call to Worship – Adapted from Psalm 68

Sing to God; sing praises to God's holy name;

Lift up a song to God who rides upon the clouds.

A parent to orphans and protector of widows.

A provider for the homeless and an advocate for the afflicted.

A refuge for those in need.

Let us tell the world of the mighty deeds our God has done and continues in us today!

Let us Worship our God!!

*Hymn #123

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

(Crusader's Hymn)

*Prayer of Adoration and Confession: (done responsively)

In Jesus Christ, God broke the barriers of sin and pain which separates us from our neighbor, ourselves and our God. We seek God's grace so we might move from alienation to new life.

So, God, grant us new life in You.

When we deny your presence in our busy days.

So, God, grant us new life in You.

When we feel justified in our anger and resentment toward others.

So, God, grant us new life in You.

When we judge others before looking at ourselves.
So, God, grant us new life in You.
When we occupy ourselves in worldly matters and reject your peace and assurance.
So, God, grant us new life in You.
When we refuse to follow your will because we are fearful and untrusting.
So, God, grant us new life in You.
When we seek the security of false gods and turn our face from your light.
So, God, grant us new life in You.

***Assurance of Grace**
Hear the Good News! There is no greater joy in the heart of God than this moment now!
For in this moment, we call upon God to grant us new life in the center of our wounded heart. It is with great joy that God grants us new life and forgiveness of our sin. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri** *(Greateorex)*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

From the Letters to the Entire Church: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Proverbs 25:6-7
Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence or stand in the place of the great, for it is better to be told, “Come up here,” than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Vickie Kennedy

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Wendy Bauer

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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<u>This Week</u>	
Sunday, August 31:	10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Monday, September 1:	Labor Day-Church Office Closed 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
Tuesday, September 2:	7:00 p.m. NA Meeting 7:00 p.m. East Row Historic Foundation Meeting
Wednesday, September 3:	7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 4:	3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
Saturday, September 6:	9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
Sunday, September 7:	10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD!

WELCOME!

Welcome to this house of prayer and worship!

We pray that your experience of worship will deepen your faith and prepare you for the week ahead. We believe God's Spirit is present in our listening to the Word and our response of discipleship. In our greeting of one another we sense the presence of Christ. May you know

His grace and peace today!

Please sign the guest register when it comes to your seat.



The greenery at the pulpit and baptismal font are provided by the church.

Open flower dates are September 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.



We thank Jean Nutgrass and Katheryn Jones for sharing their beautiful
gift of music this morning.



BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 31ST

September 4th: Cole Coppage



LETTERS AND CARDS FOR GARRETT CUTAJAR

One of our Choral Scholars, Garrett Cutajar is in basic training from now through the middle of December. He will return to the choir around the end of December. If you would like to send him a card or letter, his address and instructions are listed below. Only send cards or letters. They are not allowed to receive additional items other than what they were issued, and definitely no food/treats.

Front of envelope:

PV2, Cutajar, Garrett
Co. A 795th MP BN, PLT #2
7676 Loyalty Loop, Bldg. 901
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

Back of the envelope:

Co. A 795th MP BN, PLT #2

FYI

It could take up to 2 weeks for him to receive letters. Stop mailing the last week of November. He returns the end of December.

Solo

*“The Power Of Your Love” (Bullock/arr. Lloyd Larson)
(Jean Nutgrass & Katheryn Jones)*

Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I've found in You

Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of Your love

Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
as I walk
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of Your love

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me

Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living everyday
By the power of Your love

From the Prophets of the Old Testament: Jeremiah 2:4-13

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me and went after worthless things and became worthless themselves?

They did not say, “Where is the Lord, who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?”

I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.

The priests did not say, “Where is the Lord?” Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children’s children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look; send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing.

Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit.

Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked; be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

Sermon “Beyond the Honeymoon Stage” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Affirmation of Faith: (adapted from the Belhar Confession)**
We believe in one holy, universal Christian church,
the unity of the Communion of Saints of the entire human family.
And we believe that this unity of the people of God
must be manifest and active, in that we love one another;
that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another,
that we share one baptism together,
that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together,
that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope,
which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ,
forever and ever. Amen.

***Hymn #429** “If you But Trust in God to Guide You” (Neumark)

Gathering Together in Prayer
Joys and Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Response

And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God’s hand.

Offertory Invitation
What is our response to God, who has acted mightily on our behalf, who has blessed us with abundance and prosperity? How will we show our thanks to One who saves us from foes within and beyond us? May our offerings be expressions of gratitude.

Offertory “As the Deer” (arr. Buryl Red)

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.
For you alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.

***Doxology** (Old 100th)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**
Creator God, thank you for the gift of life and for the gift of love you so freely give us.
Please accept these gifts of love we give back to you. Use us and these gifts to make
our church, our community, our nation, and our world a place that reflects your love
and your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

***Hymn #96** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (Azmon)

***Benediction**

Postlude “Fireworks Music” (G.F. Handel)



PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY
We offer our prayers and sympathy to the Family of Marilyn Hanson. Marilyn passed away on Friday, August 22, 2025. Visitation will be held on Thursday, September 4, 2025 from 10:00-11:00am at Hodapp Funeral Home, 6041 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45224. The funeral service will follow at 11:00am. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

